

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 06312 070019Z

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5317

UNCLAS HONG KONG 6312

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, HK

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: MASS TRANSIT - VISIT OF NORMAN THOMPSON,
CHAIRMAN OF MASS TRANSIT AUTHORITY

REF: HK 6600, 8875, 9375, 512, 552, 721, A-238, A-72,
0938, 1187, 1473, 1781, 1795, 1953, 2476, 2622, 2665,
3266, 3267, 3268, 3269, 3374, 3964, 4242, 4782, 4791,
5012, 5088, 5090, 6067; MARTIN LETTER TO JAY SMITH DATED MAY 20

STATE 129418 AND PREVIOUS.

1. POST APPRECIATED REPORT ON THOMPSON VISIT TO WASHINGTON. WE ARE NOT SURPRISED THAT HIS SCHEDULE DID NOT PERMIT HIM TO SEE MUCH OF THE WASHINGTON, D.C. METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND SUBWAY. AS WE STATED IN OUR 4782 OF MAY 2 AFTER TALKING WITH THOMPSON, HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE U.S. WAS FOR ONE DAY ONLY. HE OPTED IN FAVOR OF SEEING BANK OF AMERICA AND EXIM. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO CONVINCE HIM THAT HE SHOULD STAY LONGER ON HIS FIRST TRIP, AND AS EXPLAINED IN MARTIN LETTER TO SMITH UNDER REFERENCE, IT WAS NOT EVEN POSSIBLE TO GIVE COMMERCE HIS EXACT ITINERARY UNTIL VERY LATE ALTHOUGH WE WERE ABLE TO NOTIFY YOU OF HIS VISIT IN OUR 1473 OF FEB. 10 AND OUR 3964 OF APRIL 14. ON MAY 2 WE WERE ABLE TO IN OUR 4782 TELL YOU THAT MR. THOMPSON WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 12, THAT HE HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE EXIM BANK AT 10:00 A.M. AND BANK OF AMERICA REPRESENTATIVE COULD ARRANGE MEETING THROUGH EXIM BANK. IT WAS NOT UNTIL MAY 7 (HK5012) THAT WE COULD EXTRACT FROM THOMPSON HIS COMPLETE ITINERARY FOR HIS ONE DAY VISIT AND ONLY ON MAY 8 (HK5088) THAT WE COULD GET THE NAME OF HIS WASHINGTON HOTEL. WE HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 HONG K 06312 070019Z

DETAILED OUR EFFORTS IN THE MATTER BECAUSE IT IS CLEAR THAT

ON THIS FIRST TRIP TO THE STATES THOMPSON DID NOT WANT OR HAVE
TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH ANYONE EXCEPT BANK OF AMERICA AND EXIM
BANK AND POSSIBLY WASHINGTON MASS TRANSIT PEOPLE FOR SHORT CALL.
WE FEEL THAT COMMERCE DID EXCELLENT JOB UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES
TO SHOW THOMPSON THE METRO SYSTEM, IF EVEN FOR BRIEF VISIT.
WE ALSO WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE REPORTED THOMPSON ITINERARY
AS SOON AS IT COULD BE OBTAINED.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT FOR MR. THOMPSON'S SECOND TRIP HE WILL BE
WILLING TO SPEND MUCH MORE TIME STUDYING US SYSTEMS, TO GIVE
US HIS COMPLETE ITINERARY AT AN EARLIER DATE, AND TO ALLOW US
INTERESTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SELL HIM ON THEIR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.
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